



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

63 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2012

Volume 64 Number 2

www.phil-mont.org

February 2013

**Al W3STW tells us about ACARS
at the February meeting on the 13th**

Scholarship news from Dick W3RM, page 7

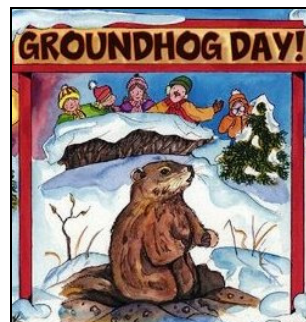
20 guests and 22 members attended AuctionFest!



Thanks to Doug Crompton W3DSP for the Auctionfest photos

Groundhog Day is Feb 2

... and the suspense is killin me!



<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (14) KB3SJS(14) KB3MIV(14) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) K3GBA(13) W3AOK(A)		Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV			
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater					
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV		DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE		Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK		Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW	

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
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Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Greetings everyone,

Here we are starting the second month of the new year, I hope it finds everyone doing well. Another Phil Mont auction fest is now in the record books - it was another good one with lots of neat stuff. I hope the upcoming year brings some economic change for the better to this country because it is now starting to affect events which involve the ham community. One of them is the Philadelphia cycling championship or better known by its old name the Corestates bike race in Manayunk. This event has been going on for 28 years and has been cancelled this year because of financial reasons. The race committee hopes to get things on track in time to bring it back next year. Another big event which involves hams is the ms150 city to shore bike tour, although not for financial reasons this event which has been coming to ocean city for well over 20 years was going to pull out and move to Avalon due to what the city said was safety issues at the finish line.

It seems that everything is being worked out and the event will stay in O.C. A smart move for the city since it brings big dollars to all the towns' businesses that weekend.

Moving right along it looks like the digital revolution is gaining momentum, as it is now a regular portion of the Sunday night Philadelphia ARES net.

The Blurb

February 2013

Hop on the bandwagon and give it a try as it is the future of traffic handling both emergency and routine. One of the best ways to get started is to tune in to the Phil Mont digital net on Tuesday nights at 7 pm hosted by our digital guru W3STW Al Tribble. Both he and Barry K3EUI do an excellent job of helping anyone interested in this new mode, so even if you don't have the equipment yet listen in on Tuesdays and get informed.

That's it for now, hope to see you all at this month's meeting.

73, Bob KB2ERL

**Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes**

February BIRTHDAYS

01 Charlotte Feierman (XYL K3EUI)

03 Barry Feierman - K3EUI

05 Mike Concordia - WB3KAC

10 Sharon Masarsky - N3GLU

17 Sam Smith - K3GBA

23 Gene DiNardi - N3XKE

Steve Victor - WA2DTW

24 Carmen DeCicco - KE3QB

Larry Pollack - N3VLC

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. has:

83 FULL PAID MEMBERS

10 FAMILY MEMBERS

3 YOUTH MEMBERS (under 17)

1 HONORARY MEMBER



At the Jan 24th VE session, 7 candidates attended resulting in 5 new tech and 2 general upgrade tickets issued.

The VE team that night was Jim NS3K, Mike Davis KB1JEY, Chris Ruhl N3GBJ, Jim Weilor AB3OM, Bill Popovic W3AOK, and Jack Coupe WA3BXH.

The Thursday evening VE session is on the 28th this month.

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary...

General Membership Meeting Jan 9, 2013

The meeting started at 1905 hrs. and club business was dispatched in short order. Auction fun began at 1915 hrs. with Jack, WA3BXH acting as auctioneer since Ed was in Florida. A splendid time was had by all and the scholarship fund had a cash infusion!

de Rick, ND3B

PMRC BoD Minutes Jan 2, 2013

The meeting convened at 2000 hours local time attending were Bill, W3AOK; Steve, WU3I; Ed, KB3IV; Fred, WA3KIO; Eric, N3QV; Dick, W3RM and Al, W3STW. Dick reports the Club's treasury is in good shape, that our commitment to the Scholar's Fund program for year 2013 will be met and that the financial details to secure the 2013 Field Day site have been met.

Bill reports there are plans to improve the sensitivity of the northeast repeater system off-site receiver. There have been reports of excessive noise from that off-site location.

Ed is looking for a regular net control operator for the Sunday morning nets, he hopes to recruit from the Club's membership.

The BoD took up and resolved the issue that the year 2012 election results for Director, ended in a

tie. The results are: Bill, W3AOK (appointed to serve to the end of this year); Sam, K3GBA (until the end of 2013); Steve, WU3I (until the end of 2014); Fred, WA3KIO (until the end of 2013); Jen, KB3MIV (until the end of 2014); Eric, N3QV (until the end of 2013) and John, KB3SJS (until the end of 2014).

Al, W3STW, reports the general meeting program for 2/13/2013 will feature the construction of the Ann's Choice Amateur Radio Station, ACARS.

*de Al W3STW, V.P.
(Thanks Al!)*

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Your 2013 Dues Invoice/Directory Information should have arrived by now. Please verify the information and return it with your dues & optional P.M.R.C. SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION to: DICK MOLL P.O. BOX 88, ABINGTON, PA 19001-0088. Your early reply will save the club additional expenses and will speed-up the publishing of the 2013 PMRC Directory.



Bill and Jack handled the auctioneer duties as Bob and Steve took care of the records and money. Ed KB3IV was in Florida! Imagine!

THIS AND THAT
Miscellaneous Ramblings
Bob Thomas, W3NE



Professor Bob, W3NE

LINCOLN AND THE TELEGRAPH
Technology comes to Washington

Telegraph communication had been invented twenty years before Abraham Lincoln became President in 1861. Although immediately embraced by newspapers, financial organizations and railroads, telegraphy was relatively uncommon in most industries and essentially nonexistent in the federal government. When government officials needed to send a telegram they dispatched a messenger to a public telegraph office to wait in line with everyone else. The White House had no telegraph terminal and only one was installed, under control of the Army, in Washington. With numerous demands on the new President's attention, particularly with his political initiative to abolish slavery, there was scant time for Lincoln to be concerned with "lightening messages," as telegrams were popularly known. Within a year of onset of the Civil War, however, the critical importance of instant communication between the Union government and its field commanders was abundantly clear to President Lincoln.

The government commandeered all telegraph lines around Washington at the beginning of the war and immediately began restoring lines damaged by secessionist sympathizers. That work largely fell to Andrew Carnegie, formerly a telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad who had risen to Pittsburgh Division Manager. He drafted some of the best telegraph operators from the PRR and they

were joined by several of the railroad's upper managers to form the new Military Telegraph Corps. Carnegie led members of the Corps in repairing and erecting lines, and trained field crews who later laid new wire right into the battlefields. By the end of the war the Corps had over 15,000 miles of telegraph lines available while the Confederates, with no facilities for manufacturing battery acid and copper wire, had only 500 miles.

Lincoln immediately realized the value of the telegraph system but he used it only casually until an incident late in the first year of his presidency brought it to his attention, dramatically altering the way Union armies would be directed. The incident began at a cabinet meeting when a messenger handed General George McClellan a dispatch. The General read it, but didn't share it with the President or cabinet. Lincoln's curiosity was aroused so after the meeting he went to the Army telegraph room outside McClellan's office and asked operator Eckert if any dispatches had been arrived from the front. Eckert replied, "There are none in the file." Lincoln, still wary of what was going on went into McClellan's office where he saw a copy of the message reporting a disastrous Federal defeat and the death of a cherished friend. He stormed back to the telegraph room where Eckert admitted taking the dispatch from the file at McClellan's order and hid it in his desk drawer. He had not lied; the message was not in the file, but the affair precipitated moving the telegraph room from Army control to the War Department, where it would be close to the White House and under civilian control. After that Lincoln went to the telegraph room every day to sift through the files of all dispatches, a practice that soon gave him powerful insight to the progress of the war.

General McClellan, who was General in Chief of the Army, took 70,000 Union soldiers down the Potomac and into Virginia where they assembled with plans to attack the Confederate capital of Richmond from the south. Days turned into weeks with no action by McClellan's troops. Lincoln first telegraphed McClellan with obtuse suggestions that he begin to advance toward Richmond. But the General replied in long rambling messages with a litany of excuses for inaction. The tone of the President's messages turned sharper, explicitly

demanding that McClellan go on the offensive. The General continued to complain and stall until finally, Confederate General Robert E. Lee attacked McClellan! Even when McClellan's Union troops were victorious in the field, he would withdraw them after battles, allowing the Rebels to regroup to mount another attack. Lincoln recognized the cold fact that only way to bring the war to a conclusion was to annihilate the enemy and it was obvious from his daily telegraph conversations with McClellan that the General was incapable of accomplishing that. He finally ordered McClellan and his troops redeployed and appointed a new General in Chief. He also telegraphed General Ulysses S. Grant to come east from the western theatre to join in the attack against Robert E. Lee and other highly competent Confederate generals.



Lincoln had a kindred spirit in Grant and while he became even more involved in directing some Union armies, he left Grant to fight his own aggressive war. There were still some reticent generals in the field and when Lincoln's telegraphed exhortations to them went unfulfilled, he replaced them – by telegraph – with vigorous military men who could get the job done. Such hands-on command did not come without constant attention by the President, however. To achieve his purpose he spent most of every day in the telegraph room and devoted so much time there at night he had a cot installed. When he wasn't writing or reading dispatches, Lincoln frequently sought the solitude of the telegraph cipher room, where he was able to concentrate on his thoughts. The first draft

of the Emancipation Proclamation was written there.

Mention of the cipher room highlights the supremacy of the North in communicating secretly. All Union strategic messages were secured by encryption based on a code book that was frequently changed so messages were kept secret from the Confederates for the entire war. The system was so ingenious some Southern newspapers resorted to publishing captured Union encrypted messages, pleading with readers to discover what they contained. By contrast Rebel encryption was weak and easily decoded. President Lincoln wrote-out all his messages by hand before they were enciphered. The National Archives subsequently recovered all his original manuscripts from Telegraph Room files and preserved them, enabling reconstruction of the President's personal direction of the war through his nearly 1000 telegrams.

The American Civil war was the first time armed forces were deployed from a central post in response to changing conditions at the front. Lincoln, sitting in Washington, could follow the progress of two Union armies, one on each of the enemy's flanks, and direct them to squeeze and split the opposition. Abraham Lincoln was in fact *the* Commander in Chief; No "Security Council," no "Situation Room," and no flock of advisors. Abraham Lincoln was totally in charge of the war through the medium of telegraph.

In a final, somber link between Abraham Lincoln and the telegraph, progress of the assassinated leader's funeral train was flashed along railroad lines to stations in cities and towns along its route from Washington to Springfield, Illinois. Mourning common folk turned out in droves on bridges, at road crossings and in fields as the train passed by to pay their last respects to the president who had led their army into a new era of command tactics and the nation to victory in the Civil War.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: A comprehensive account of Lincoln's use of telegraph in the Civil War is given in the book *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mail*, by Tom Wheeler (Harper-Collins 2006), which was the principal reference for this article.

PMRC Scholarships for 2013

Since 2002, PMRC has awarded one or more scholarship grants to qualifying licensed amateurs residing in either the Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey ARRL Section.. Again, for 2013, the club will underwrite two scholarships: The annual Claude H. Haring, Jr., W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship; and the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc. 2013 Silent Key Memorial Scholarship. Each includes a grant in the amount of \$2,000. Applicants must hold any class of amateur license, and be pursuing an education above the high school level through a degree-granting college or university during 2013.

Once again, the administration of our scholarships, from the application stage through the selection of awardees, will be handled for us—without charge—by the Scholarship Committee of The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., (FAR). The Foundation has revised its application process somewhat, and interested scholarship applicants should visit the FAR's website for complete details at foundationforamateurradio.org. Click on the "Scholarship" page, and carefully review the changes in the process, including the fact that the preferred method is now on-line applications...though mailed ones will still be accepted. Either way, applications must be received by FAR on or before April 15, 2013.

In reviewing the FAR scholarships being offered, note that some require an application 'endorsement' by a member of the sponsoring organization for eligibility. Note especially those offered by the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), and those offered by the "10-10 International Net, Inc." These two sponsors comprise almost half of the total number of scholarships available, so obtaining the required endorsements substantially improves an applicant's odds of receiving a grant. Phil-Mont is a dues-paying member of the 10-10 International Net, and a number of Phil-Mont members are QCWA members. Before filing a scholarship application, contact W3RM for help in obtaining these endorsements.

In 2012, for the first time, both of our scholarship grants were awarded to Phil-Mont members: Caitlin J. Brady, W3CJB, of Plymouth Meeting, PA, and Andrew J. Furlong, KC2PMW, were the fortunate recipients.

Eligible students have a good chance of receiving funding help through the FAR program, which administers some 50 or more grants each year, sponsored and underwritten by clubs and individuals. Spread the word to any you know who may benefit. Again, the deadline for filing applications is April 15. Contact Dick, W3RM, our scholarship chairman, for additional information, questions, and endorsements.

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET

SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS

CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT WU3I@ARRL.NET

February at Phil-Mont

- 1 Blurb Editor Retires (*his day job!*)
- 2 Sat Groundhog Day
- 3 Sun K3Xs NCS
Super Bowl
End of Vietnam War, 1973
- 10 Sun W3MHP NCS
Chinese New Year –Snake
- 12 Tues Mardi Gras
- 13 Wed PMRC Meeting
- 17 Sun KB3IV NCS
- 18 Mon President's Day
- 23 Sat Purim Begins at Sundown
- 24 Sun KB3SJS NCS
- 28 Thurs VE Session

Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and the Digital net on Tuesday nights.

PRINTER TONER FOR SAMSUNG CLP 300
AND COMPATIBLES. NOT OEM.
2 BLACK 1 YELLOW 1 MAGENTA. 40.00
SHIPPING INCLUDED
Stephen Hoch WU3I Steve wu3i@arrl.net
CELL 2156056074

Guess what *else* happened in February? The RCMP was formed in 1920; The first meeting of the Supreme Court in 1790; Bottle cap patented in 1892; Lindbergh born, 2/4/1902; Rosa Parks born 2/4/1913; Hank Aaron born 2/5/1934; Babe Ruth born 2/6/1895; Boy Scouts founded 1910; Jules Verne born 2/8/1828; Hershey's Chocolate founded 1894 (woohoo!); Thomas Edison born 2/11/1847; Lincoln born 2/12/1809; Pluto discovered 1930; Glenn orbits Earth 2/20/62; Washington born 2/22/1732; toothpick patented 1872; U.S. Flag raised at Iwo Jima 2/23/1945; Steinbeck born 2/27/1902; Kristen DeVirgiliis Campbell born 2/11/78 ... and the California gold rush began!

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First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976
The Blurb